

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph based on the assertion that the term "the asset" lacks antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully submits that antecedent basis for "the asset" exists is the preamble of claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 2,555,318 to Christensen. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 includes the feature of a plurality of plates mounted on a shaft. In contrast, Christensen does not disclose plates mounted on a shaft. Figures 1, 4, 10 and 12 show a large center hole in springs 36. Figure 4 clearly shows that springs 36 are not "mounted on" the Office Action defined shaft (plunger pin 78).

Similarly, claim 6 includes the feature of the "plurality of plates" being mounted on a shaft.

Further, claims 7, 8, 10 and 11 include the feature of at least one plate sliding on the shaft. It is respectfully submitted that Christensen does not disclose a spring 36 sliding on plunger pin 78.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Christensen does not disclose each and every feature of claims 1-12 and, therefore, rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is inappropriate. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Date: June 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Stuart I. Smith

Registration No.: 42,159

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, DC 20043-9998

(202) 344-4000

(202) 344-8300 (Fax)

Attorney/Agent For Applicant